The Action Plan, interalia, seeks to finalise National Energy Policy, set up State Electricity Regulatory Commissions, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, rationalise retail tariffs, facilitate autonomy of the State Electricity Boards and improvement in management practices of these Boards, encourage improvement in physical parameters, encourage setting up of cogeneration/captive power plants, give high priority for hydro projects and lay emphasis on investments in the North Eastern Region, finalise allocation of liquied fuels, develop mega power projects at pitheads and set up washeries.

The Common Minimum National Action Plan has been forwarded to all the State Governments/Union Territories on 31.12.1996 for its implementation in a time bound manner.

SKO/LDO Dealers

2869. SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of SKO/LDO dealers in Andhra Pradesh as on date;

(b) the quantity of Kerosene Oil/light Diesel Oil-allotted to these agencies during the last three years;

(c) whether several complaints have been received recently regarding less allotment by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) As on 1.10.1996 there were 605 SKO/LDO dealerships in operation in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Rural Development and Poverty Allocation

2870. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether extension of employment generation schemes and distribution of surplus land are the major tools to be employed by the Government to push up rural development and tackle poverty during the next five years;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this direction; and

(c) the allocation made for the Ninth Five Year for the purpose as compare to Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) The extension of employment generation scheme and distribution of surplus land during next 5 years has been spelt out in the Approach paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan. According to this, the programme for self employment and wage employment would continue in the Ninth Five Year Plan. These programmes would be redesigned to make them more effective as instruments of poverty alleviation. There will be a shift in strategy under IRDP, a self-employment programme, from an individual beneficiary approach to a group and/or cluster approach. This would facilitate higher investment level to ensure viability of projects. The Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM) will be revamped in its design, curriculam and method of training to improve employment opportunities for poor. A greater integration on Development of Women and Child in Rural Areas (DWCRA) with IRDP and TRYSEM will be attempted to provide women's growth with greater access to financial resources and training. Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) will be universalised by 1997-98 as against existing coverage of about 4329 blocks.

Land Reforms in the Ninth Plan would include detection/redistribution of surplus land, tenancy reforms providing for recording the rights of tenants and share croppers, consolidation of holdings, prevention of alienation of tribal lands, providing access on a group basis to poor on Wastelands and Common property resources, permission for leasing-in and leasing-out of land within the ceiling limits, and preference to women in the distribution of ceiling surplus land.

(c) The allocations for the ninth five year plan for the rural development and poverty alleviation schemes have not been finalised. However, Central outlay during 1997-98 (BE) for major rural development and poverty alleviation schemes is proposed to be as under :

Scheme	Outlays (Rs. in crores) (B.E.)
1. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)	611.00
2. Ganga Kalyan Yojana	200.00
3. DWCRA	65.00
4. TRYSEM	59.00
5. J.R.Y.	2077.70
6. E.A.S.	1970.00
7. Indira Awas Yojana	1190.00
8. Million Wells Scheme	448.00
9. DPAP/DDP	185.00
10. Rural Water Supply Programme	1302.00
11. Rural Sanitations	100.00